1. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of brokering sales between parties, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    a)   receiving <u>a</u> request for broker's services from a client;

    b)   requesting transactional information from said client for said brokered services;

    c)   constructing a client transactional model from ~~said~~ received <u>transactional parameters</u>, ~~said client transactional model indicating a likelihood of said client's participation in a transaction~~;

    d)   identifying potential second parties to said transaction; and

    e)   eliciting participants to said transaction from said identified second parties, whereby said transaction is structured to maximize spread.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of brokering sales~~ as in claim 1 wherein after ~~the step (c)~~ ~~of~~ constructing the client transactional model, said method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

    c1)   presenting modeled transactions to said client, acceptance of said modeled transaction determining whether <u>said</u> parameters ~~of said transaction~~ are suitable.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of brokering sales~~ as in claim 2, wherein if <u>said</u> parameters ~~of said transaction~~ are determined to be unsuitable in ~~step~~ (c1), said method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

    c2)   reworking said transactional model; and

    c3)   repeating ~~step~~ (c1).

4. (Currently Amended) A method of brokering sales as in claim 3 wherein said client is a prospective buyer.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of brokering sales as in claim 3 wherein said client is a prospective seller.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of brokering sales as in claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

    f)   constructing a workable deal model responsive to said transactional model;

    g)   identifying deals likely to be accepted by said client and at least one identified second party responsive to said transactional model and said workable deal model; and

    h)   presenting identified deals having the largest spread to said client and each said identified second party.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of brokering sales as in claim 6 wherein when said deal is rejected by said client or all identified second parties, said method further comprising the step of:

    j)   reworking said deal, whereby reduction of profit to said broker is minimized in said reworked deal; and

    k)   presenting said reworked deal to said client and each said identified second party.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of brokering sales~~ as in claim 6 where ~~step (g) of~~ identifying deals likely to be accepted comprises ~~the steps of~~:

    i)   constructing a broker's profit function ~~of said received parameters~~;

    ii)   employing a global optimization search for identifying a feasible deal that maximizes spread; and

    iii)   presenting proposed deals to said client and identified second parties.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for brokering sales, ~~said computer program product~~ comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said ~~computer readable program~~ code comprising:

    ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for receiving a request for broker's services from a client;

    ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for requesting transactional information from said client for said brokered services;

    ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for constructing a client transactional model from ~~said~~ received transactional parameters~~, said client transactional model indicating a likelihood of said client's participation in a transaction~~;

    ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for identifying potential second parties to said transaction; and

    ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for eliciting participants to said transaction from said identified second parties, whereby said transaction is structured to maximize spread.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~readable~~ program product ~~code means for brokering sales~~ as in claim 9 further ~~comprising:~~ comprising ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for presenting modeled transactions to said client, acceptance of said modeled transaction determining whether said parameters ~~of said transaction~~ are suitable.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~readable~~ program product ~~code means for brokering sales~~ as in claim 10 further comprising:

~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for constructing a workable deal model responsive to said transactional model;

~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for identifying deals likely to be accepted by said client and at least one identified second party responsive to said transactional model and said workable deal model; and

~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for presenting identified deals having the largest spread to said client and each said identified second party.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~readable~~ program product ~~code means for brokering~~ ~~sales~~ as in claim 11 wherein ~~computer readable program code means~~ said instructions for identifying deals likely to be accepted comprises:

> ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for constructing a broker's profit function ~~of said received parameters~~;
>
> ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for employing a global optimization search for identifying a feasible deal that maximizes spread; and
>
> ~~computer readable program code means~~ instructions for presenting proposed deals to said client and identified second parties.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for brokering sales between parties, said system comprising:

> means for receiving a request for broker's services from a client;
>
> means for requesting transactional information from said client for said brokered services;
>
> means for constructing a client transactional model from ~~said~~ received transactional parameters~~, said client transactional model indicating a likelihood of said~~ ~~client's participation in a transaction~~;
>
> means for identifying potential second parties to said transaction; and
>
> means for eliciting participants to said transaction from said identified second parties, whereby said transaction is structured to maximize spread.

14. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for brokering sales~~ as in claim 13 further ~~comprising:~~ comprising means for presenting modeled transactions to said client, acceptance of said modeled transaction determining whether said parameters ~~of said transaction~~ are suitable.

15. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for brokering sales~~ as in claim 13 further comprising:

    means for constructing a workable deal model responsive to said transactional model;

    means for identifying deals likely to be accepted by said client and at least one identified second party responsive to said transactional model and said workable deal model; and

    means for presenting identified deals having the largest spread to said client and each said identified second party.

16. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for brokering sales~~ as in claim 15 further comprising means for reworking said deal to minimize reduction of profit to said broker.

17. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for brokering sales~~ as in claim 15 wherein said means for identifying deals likely to be accepted comprises:

    means for constructing a broker's profit function ~~of said received parameters~~;

    means for employing a global optimization search for identifying a feasible deal that maximizes spread; and

    means for presenting proposed deals to said client and identified second parties.